

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter • September 2012

What's new?

I can't believe how fast this summer has gone. It seems like summer just started! I hope everybody has been out to the refuge this summer to enjoy its beauty. Also, we are pleased to welcome two new AmeriCorps members: Heidi Fencik as a new Volunteer Coordinator and Kim Portwood as the Environmental Education Specialist. We are happy to have them on our team!



Copyright Robert Allen

Cheers!

I want to thank all of you for sending in your volunteer hours for Fiscal Year 2012. Over 450 Deer Flat volunteers served over 12,000 hours this past Fiscal Year! Your service has helped improve wildlife habitat, educate visitors and students, document visitor numbers, keep the Refuge grounds running, and many other great things. Bravo and job well done everybody!

Around the water cooler...

To give you a CCP update... the draft is still being reviewed, edited, and formatted. Because of the public interest and the interest of local, state, and elected officials, the editing and feedback processes are taking longer than expected. We'll keep you posted about when the draft plan will be out. Let us know if you are not on the CCP mailing list but would like to be added so you will receive information about the draft and how to get involved. Thanks for your patience!

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge

New opportunities available soon! As many of you know, the Refuge has a non-profit Friends group, Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge! This all-volunteer group helps the Refuge by coordinating volunteer projects, hosting events, and raising funds and writing grants for Refuge projects. The Friends are currently prepping for a board and committee recruitment campaign. If you enjoy volunteering, appreciate the Refuge, and want to help even more, think about how you might want to help the Friends by serving on a committee or even the board! If you'd prefer to just join, memberships start at just \$10 and all contributions are tax deductible, so why not join now! For more information about the Friends, email friendsofdf@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events:

Volunteer Recognition Potluck: Saturday, October 6th, noon-2 PM

If you volunteered between October 2011 and September 2012, then you are invited to our end-of-year volunteer recognition luncheon. Please save the date to grab some grub as a thank you for your volunteer service. **Watch for your invitation early next week! The RSVP deadline will be September 26th.**

Creepy Critter Encounters: Afternoon of Saturday, October 27th, time to be announced
See volunteer opportunity below for more information.



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trip Leaders (3-4 volunteers)

Dates and Times: mid-September through October, Tues-Thurs from 9am-3pm

Volunteers may be needed to help guide 4th-6th graders through educational stations near the Visitor Center and connect students with nature. No experience is necessary – just a love of kids, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn. **Training is planned for early-mid September.**

Scout Day Leaders (3-4 volunteers per month)

Dates and Time: Usually 1st Saturday of every month from 1-3pm. *Upcoming dates: Oct 13, November 3, December 1*

Scout Day is a free environmental education opportunity for Scouts to earn wildlife-related badges. Volunteers lead programs that include crafts and a short hike. No experience necessary—only enthusiasm and a willingness to learn!

Deadline to register: Ongoing—we need volunteers now for the new Scout Day season!

National Public Lands Day (As many as possible!!)

Dates and Time: September 29th, 9:00am-12pm

On Saturday September 29th, celebrate National Public Lands Day by doing volunteer projects from picking up litter to removing invasive plants around the refuge. If you would like to help, register with Kash at 467-9278 or email

Kash_anderson@fws.gov. **Deadline: September 24th**

Bird Feeding (3-5 Volunteers)

Dates and Times September 29th, 1:00pm and various times in October-March

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge have been feeding our local birds in winter for a couple years now and they would like some help. September 29th they are holding a training and orientation for filling and proper cleaning of the bird feeders. From November through March they will need volunteers to help them fill and clean the bird feeders 3 times a week. If you are interested, please contact Noreen Tripp at tonotripp@cablone.net.

Creepy Critter Encounters (20 volunteers for event)

Date and Time: Saturday, October 27th (tentative time: 4-7pm)

A fun Halloween event for kids and kids at heart who are invited to come in costume to learn about wildlife (creepy critters) on a spooky hike, make crafts, and listen to scary stories. Volunteers are needed to staff the welcome table, craft room and act as guides at wildlife-related stations along the nature trail. No experience is necessary – just a love of kids, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn. **Deadline to register: Monday, October 10th**

Reading at the Refuge (1-2 volunteers per month)

Dates and Time: 1st & 3rd Mondays at 10:00am and 2:00pm

A free wildlife focused story telling hour for pre-schoolers. Volunteers can select and acquire story books, prepare wildlife-oriented crafts, and lead the storytelling and craftmaking. **Deadline to register: Ongoing**

To find out more about or sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities,
Contact kash_anderson@fws.gov or (208)-467-9278.

Thank you, and see you at the Refuge!

Kash Anderson, Volunteer Coordinator